

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Over the past two years, and particularly during the course of the past six months, conditions have gradually been improving in Bucharest, and to some extent in the provinces. On all sides it is heard that "things are going better".
2. The effects of this improvement should not be exaggerated for conditions could hardly have been worse and the mere passage of time has helped. However, the appearance of the people has steadily improve; they are better dressed and better shod. There are adequate supplies of meat and other food. Meat may not be available for one day, but supplies will come into the stores the next day. In fact, there have been no serious shortages of food during the past six months. The same improvement, though on a reduced scale, has been noticed in provincial towns. The universal complaint among the people is the lack of money. This complaint appears to be well justified and, as far as can be judged, practically the entire salary of the average worker must go towards the purchase of food.
3. The city of Bucharest itself also shows improvements. Streets are being repaired; tram lines and methane gas pipe lines are being laid; new stores have been opened and old stores have been improved; there are more goods and more variety of goods in the stores; some new houses are being built; the city is starting to take on an air of general activity. These changes are, of course, on a very small scale compared to the normal everyday changes in any Western city of comparable size, where these changes are hardly noticed. In Rumania, however, where for months on end little or nothing is done, these gradual changes seem to be rather striking.
4. The last official Rumanian comprehensive economic report, by Constantinescu in the 9 September 1955 issue of the Cominform journal, laid no particular stress on consumer goods. Thus it can hardly be said that these improvements are the result of a recent shift in planning. Possibly claims of high production are justified. At least

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there seems to be no shift away from consumer goods and considerations of general welfare.

5. Reports are circulating in Bucharest that measures will soon be taken to raise salaries as much as 20 percent during the course of the second Five Year Plan. However, the increase in workers' wages will probably depend upon the workers' technical and educational qualifications.

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